



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

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Travel Warnings And Alerts

Leaving China?

Did you know that you can end your enrollment with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by visiting the step.state.gov site? If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to: ShanghaiACS@

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a draw-down of its staff. Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert.

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html>.

6/20/2014 [Thailand Travel Alert](#)

6/19/2014 [Kenya Travel Warning](#)

6/16/2014 [Iraq Travel Warning](#)

6/12/2014 [Republic of South Sudan Travel Warning](#)

6/12/2014 [Russian Federation Travel Alert](#)

6/8/2014 [Djibouti Travel Warning](#)

6/5/2014 [Ukraine Travel Warning](#)

6/4/2014 [Venezuela Travel Warning](#)

5/29/2014 [2014 Hurricane and Typhoon Season Alert](#)

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Nanjing YOG Pages Available On Our Website

Nanjing will host the 2nd Youth Olympic Games (YOG) from August 16 to 28. This event will draw thousands of young athletes, their families, friends, and fans to Nanjing. Nanjing, in Jiangsu Province of eastern China, falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, which can offer services to U.S. citizens.

If you are a U.S. citizen traveling to China for the Youth Olympic Games, the dedicated Youth Olympic Games pages on our website may be of interest to you. The U.S. Consulate Shanghai has compiled information here to help you have a smooth and safe visit. We also have added special resources for travelers who need assistance or experience emergencies during the Youth Olympic Games.

For more general information, please visit U.S. Consulate General Shanghai's American Citizen Services directory [here](#). You may also wish to review the extensive information on the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games official [website](#). The U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee also have dedicated web pages about the Youth Olympic Games.

Join us!

Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our closures is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

<u>July 4, 2014, Friday</u>	Independence Day	独立日	Dúlì Rì
<u>July 25, 2014, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<u>August 15, 2014, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì

Asia's Priciest Cities for Expats

Source: [Gaurav, Raghuvanshi, The Wall Street Journal Blog | June 12, 2014](#)

Shanghai and Beijing were ranked the world's 3rd and 4th most expensive cities for expatriates in a [March survey](#), outstripping even notoriously pricey destinations for expats such as Hong Kong and Singapore. The global ranking published by consulting firm ECA International, found that Venezuela's capital Caracas was the world's most expensive city for expatriates out of the 257 surveyed. Oslo came in second. No city in Asia ranked within the top 10, with Tokyo falling to 11th place from 6th since June last year. Japan's capital was the world's most expensive place for expats just two years ago, according to a statement by ECA that elaborated on the reasons for the rankings. Tokyo's depreciation, it said, was partly due to the weakening of the Japanese yen, which has balanced out higher prices. After Tokyo, Seoul is the second-most expensive Asian city with a global rank of 16. Shanghai and Beijing follow with 18th and 20th ranks respectively. Singapore, ranked the world's most expensive city by the Economist Intelligence Unit's Cost of Living Survey in March, is a distant 31st on the ECA list.

According to ECA, which provides data and software to more than 1,500 companies to help them decide on staff placements globally, the difference between the two surveys is in what's included in the basket of goods it weighs. The weight attached to different items in the baskets can cause such starkly different results, said Lee Quane, the regional director of ECA International. For example, if one survey collects data from only upmarket stores or measures only expensive luxury goods consumed by expatriates, the results can be different, he said.

ECA conducts two cost of living surveys each year to help calculate cost of living allowances so that their employees' spending power is not reduced while on international assignment. The company says it compares a basket of con-

sumer goods and services commonly purchased by employees in 440 global locations. Living costs for employees are affected by inflation, availability of goods and currency exchange rates, it adds. Some costs, such as home rentals, utilities, car purchases and school fees are not included in the ECA basket, as they are usually covered by employers as separate allowances, according to the statement.

The Economist Intelligence Unit survey compares all cities to New York as a base and includes the price of cars, which can make a huge difference in a city such as Singapore, where new car buyers must also buy a certificate of entitlement. That document currently costs more than 63,000 Singapore dollars (\$50,372) for small cars and still more for bigger ones, more than the cost of a sedan in many markets. "We like to believe our study is more representative," said Mr. Quane, when asked to explain how different surveys could produce such contrasting results. Jon Copestake, the EIU's retail and consumer goods analyst, countered that it was normal for survey findings to differ. "We do not see different surveys as being more or less representative, but as applying different methodologies for clients to choose from," he said in an email. "The basket of goods we employ and the weights we apply may be different. The list of cities covered will also differ, as will the exchange rates used, which are a crucial metric in driving the dynamics of the relative cost of living."

The thing the two surveys do generally agree on, however, is which countries are the world's cheapest for expatriates – Pakistan and India. Karachi ranks as the world's least expensive city in the ECA survey at 257, and living in Islamabad at rank 255 is only a tad more expensive. Most Indian cities are also relatively low in the list with Kolkata ranked 251, Bangalore 242, Mumbai 225 and the capital New Delhi at 208. Mumbai, Karachi and New Delhi, respectively, were the three least expensive cities out of 131 in the Economist Intelligence Unit rankings.